(b) In UK, all unemployed job-seekers are eligible to receive unemployment allowance ranging from £ 34.60 to £ 57.45 a week depending upon age for a period up to 26 weeks provided they satisfy the qualifying conditions. In USA, employees of industry, commerce and non-profit organizations employing 4 or more employees as well as Local Government workers, Domestic and Farm workers are covered. The Unemployment Allowance is financed through Federal Tax as well as employers' contribution and is payable at the rate 50% of earnings upto 26 weeks subject to meeting the qualifying conditions.

(c) In order to provide social security to the employees covered under the scheme who lose their jobs due to closure of factories/establishments, retrenchment or permanent disability due to non-employment injury, the ESI Corporation, at its meeting held on 27.02.2005, approved a scheme of unemployment allowance. The scheme called, the Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana, published in the Gazette of India on 26.03.2005, was introduced with effect from 01.04.2005.

Under the Scheme, employees who lose their employment due to closure of factories/establishments, retrenchment or permanent invalidity due to non-employment injury, after being insured for five or more years, are entitled to Unemployment Allowance in cash equal to 50% of their wage upto 6 months during his/her entire service. In addition, during the period for which a person is entitled to unemployment allowance, he and his family members are also entitled to medical care from ESI Dispensaries, Panel Clinics and ESI Hospitals.

(d) Does not arise.

Proceeding initiated by PF Commissioners

590. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many proceedings under Section 7-A of the Employees 'Provident Fund' (EPF) and MP Act are initiated by the Regional Provident Fund (PF) Commissioner, Ahmedabad, Rajkot and Surat during the last five years ending on 31st March, 2008;

(b) the details about various proceedings initiated in the cases of M/s. ONGC Mehsana and Ahmedabad Assets in the State of Gujarat; and

(c) the delay in taking action by the PF Commissioners against the defaulters who have failed to pay PF Contribution in the accounts of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The details of cases in which proceedings under Section 7A of the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 have been conducted are as under.

Year	Ahmedabad	Rajkot	Surat
2003-04	196	197	79
2004-05	91	400	47
2005-06	192	156	186
2006-07	387	193	69
2007-08	278	269	416

(b) and (c) Two proceedings under Section 7A were initiated by Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Surat for non-compliance in respect of the contractual employees as below:

1. M/s. ONGC Limited, Hazira, Surat.

2. M/s. ONGC Limited, Ankleshwar, Bharauch.

The establishment in both the above cases is contending that its contractors are having separate Code Numbers and it has requested for some more time to collect details to provide it to Surat office of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation. Inquiry under Section 7A has been initiated.

Allocation of fund to Rajasthan under RGNDWM

†591.DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the district-wise details of funds to be allocated by the Central Government under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) to different districts in Rajasthan for the year 2008 for supplying potable water to water potability affected population of these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): Rural water supply is a State subject. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial assistance under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Under ARWSP, at Government of India level funds are allocated State-wise and district-wise allocation is not done. During 2008-09 under ARWSP, Rajasthan has been allocated Rs. 738.39 crore for Coverage, Swajaldhara and Sub-mission on water quality. In addition, Rs. 231.74 crore has been allocated for rural water supply in the DDP areas of the State.

Factors determining BPL family

592. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the factors determining a family to belong to the category ".Below Poverty Line";

(b) the percentage of population coming under BPL category in the country and also in different States and Union Territories;

(c) whether this percentage corresponds to Dr. Arjun Sengupta's report that 77 per cent people cannot spend even Rs. 20/- per day on the average; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to do justice to the poor people who do not belong to the APL families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of persons living below the poverty line at National and State level, separately in rural and urban areas from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years following the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group of Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor. The latest estimate of the percentage and number of persons living below the poverty line is available for the year 2004-05 based on the large sample survey of consumer expenditure data of the 61st Round of NSS which are given in the Statement (*See* below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi